

NSC BRIEFING

5 October 54

PROBABLY SOVIET REACTION TO LONDON CONFERENCE

1. Moscow's initial reaction to outcome of London Conference sets propaganda line for immediate future but contains no indications of forthcoming Soviet diplomatic counter-moves.

A. Soviet comment describes London agreements as

"attempt to bring back EDC under another name."

1. Criticizes British and French leaders for ignoring the wishes of their people.

2. Deprecates "sensational concessions by Britain" regarding troop and air force commitment to Continent.

3. Stresses incompatibility of London agreements with German reunification, primarily for benefit of German listeners.

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~~II. So far no Moscow comment on outcome of London Conference,~~

→ ~~but~~ Main lines of Soviet counter-moves in immediate

future are emerging, with France the principal target of diplomatic and propaganda action.

A. Moscow's immediate aim--generate French public and parliamentary pressure to defer final ratification London agreement pending further four power talks.

B. In effort to make prospects for such talks attractive, Soviet leaders are seeking plausible modifications on earlier stands regarding disarmament, Austria, and Germany.

1. Disarmament--Vyshinsky's UN proposals 30 September were intended to appear as substantial concession. Molotov's passing of advance copy to French ambassador day before Vyshinsky's speech, and his remark that "account must be taken of the German

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2. Austria--USSR presently seeking to demonstrate readiness to make concessions and, thereby to induce Austrian leaders resume bilateral talks. While Moscow still insists troops remain in Austria after any treaty is signed, Communist propaganda now talks of limits on these forces. Furthermore, Communists say no troops would have to remain after an Austrian treaty if the European security plan proposed by Molotov were set up.

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3. Germany--

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An ostensible Soviet acceptance

of principle of free elections possible to get talks on Germany started. But Kremlin will not finally go through with free elections.

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III. These three--and possible other issues such as European security--may be included in a new Soviet call for four power negotiations.

A. Such call could take form of reply to Western note of 9 September, be timed to exert maximum influence on French Assembly debate on London agreement expected to begin in early November.

B. Meanwhile, Communist propaganda will attempt to create French doubts regarding value of: (1) British and American commitments at London (2) Adenauer's "self-imposed" restrictions.

C. Moscow further hopes that French opposition to German admission to NATO will delay or prevent final ratification of London agreements.

1. Soviet propaganda notes that "the fact that the French Parliament two years ago decided that

West Germany must not be admitted to the Atlantic

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2. French Communist press hopefully predicts that "popular action" will render the London agreement a "dead-letter, as EDC is a dead-letter."